

# WAKE BAR FLYER

## Hope on the Horizon:

An update from Wake County court officials  
and our Law in the Time of COVID-19  
Contributors..... 4

VOL. XLIX • ISSUE 1 | FIRST QUARTER 2021

## NEW BEGINNINGS

BY DAVE HOLM | PRESIDENT, WAKE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION



**I AM HONORED** to be serving as the 2021 President of the Wake County Bar Association. We got off to a good early start. On January 5, North Carolina Bar Association President Mark Holt spoke at our virtual Zoom lunch of 185 participants. A year ago we were not using Zoom for any WCBA activities, and to be honest, I did not know what Zoom was. Now we are using Zoom to connect our members in meaningful ways, such as providing informative CLEs and conducting the business of our Board of Directors meetings and committee meetings.

With the roll out of the vaccines, I am optimistic we will be able to return to in-person events at some point this year. Many of our best attended events happen later in the year. The Oyster Roast is usually at Haywood Hall in September; the Family Picnic at Pullen Park in October; and the holiday party and our annual meeting in December. I hope to be able to talk with many of you in-person at these events.

Everyone is waiting for the pandemic to end so that things can return to "normal," but will it be a return to "normal" or a will there be a "new normal?". Time will tell, but I think it will be a new normal that will be better in many ways. I do think the WCBA will continue to use Zoom for some meetings. I do think the courts will continue to use WebEx for some calendar calls, summary judgment absolute divorces and other hearings. This will save on travel time and continue to give people the ability to participate from their homes or offices.

2021 will also be the year that Wake County starts electronic filing for state court, possibly sometime in the summer. We will do our best to provide timely information when we have it and provide support to the court system and Wake County attorneys before, during and after this transition.

I think the Wake County Bar Association made significant progress in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion in 2020, and we will continue to make progress this year and in the years to come.

With more than 2,500 members, approximately 20 committees, numerous meetings and CLE programs, we are well positioned to continue to be a valuable resource for the attorneys of Wake County. As we all know, we play an important role in the legal system that impacts the lives of many people in significant ways on a daily basis. Let's work together to create a new normal in 2021 that is better for everyone. **WBF**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

LEARN OVER LUNCH: BEST OFFICE PRACTICES  
FEBRUARY 4 | 1 P.M.

BREAKFAST DISCUSSION SERIES: RECOVERY COURT  
FEBRUARY 17 | 7:30 A.M.

THE ETHICS OF LAWYERING AND POLITICS  
FEBRUARY 18 | TIME TBD

COFFEE + CLE  
FEBRUARY 26 | 9 A.M. – 12 P.M.

MARCH VIRTUAL LUNCHEON  
MARCH 2 | 12:45 P.M.

LEARN OVER LUNCH: POWER OF ATTORNEY  
MARCH 4 | 1 P.M.

BREAKFAST DISCUSSION SERIES: CAMPBELL LAW CLINIC  
MARCH 17 | 7:30

RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE  
MARCH 25 | 12:30 – 2 P.M.

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WAKE COUNTY  
BAR ASSOCIATION

## WAKE BAR FLYER

VOL. XLIX No. 1 | FIRST QUARTER 2021

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## A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY WHITNEY D.G. VON HAAM | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WAKE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

**AS I WAS FLIPPING** through my 2020 calendar (yes, I still keep a paper one with me at all time), I was stunned by the number of things that we had planned out early in the year that needed to be canceled, or constantly rescheduled. For instance, did you know that we were scheduled to have a ribbon-cutting event at our "new" WCBA/Tenth offices on April 23, 2020? The hallmark of 2020 was a wasteland of events that never came to fruition: Conferences canceled, vacations re-envisioned, meetings held via Zoom.

How do we build from the ashes of the year that wasn't, and begin to plan again while there is so much uncertainty? And, once there is widespread availability of vaccinations, when will our members feel comfortable to be in crowds again? I don't know about all of you, but when I'm watching movies and people are at concerts and parties, I feel almost a sense of shock at how naïve we all were to germ transmission.

While there are so many unknowns as we move into 2021, there is one thing that our members can bank on: the staff will continue making your membership as robust and free of limitations as we can. We will constantly evaluate situations and dip our toes into the water when appropriate. And, we will definitely look forward to the day when our WCBA membership is back to the face-to-face interaction that so many of us, the staff in particular, crave. **WBF**





## CONGRATULATIONS TO SMITH ANDERSON, 2021 WCBA EQUITY CHAMPION

THIS NEW RECOGNITION, TO BE PRESENTED ANNUALLY BY THE COMMITTEE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION, HONORS INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS OR GROUPS THAT DEMONSTRATE A COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION EFFORTS.

BY YVONNE ARMENDARIZ | VICE CHAIR, COMMITTEE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION



THE WCBA'S COMMITTEE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION (DEI) selected law firm Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan, L.L.P. (Smith Anderson), as our inaugural Equity Champion. This recognition is presented annually to an individual, organization or group that demonstrates sustained support for advancing diversity and inclusion in the legal community, workplace or field.

The DEI Committee chose Smith Anderson based on selection criteria requiring

that the award recipient: (1) be a catalyst for change regarding diversity and inclusion in the legal field; (2) effectively leads and motivates others by demonstrating visionary thinking in advancing diversity; and (3) builds meaningful partnerships with community organizations that have a significant impact on equity and inclusion.

Smith Anderson's commitment to diversity and inclusion is borne out in a series of actions it has taken both internally and externally. A primary goal of the firm's recently-adopted Strategic Plan includes continuing to pro-actively hire, retain, and advance diverse lawyers to partnership and key leadership roles. Among other recruiting efforts, Smith Anderson actively recruits at and hires from minority job fairs, including the Southeastern Minority Job Fair and the North Carolina Bar Association's Minorities in the Profession Committee's Summer Associate Program. Further: (1) over 50% of the 2020 class of ten (10) Summer Associates was diverse; (2) effective January 2021, 50% of the firm's associates newly elected to partnership are diverse; and (3) three members of the firm's nine-person elected Management Committee are women (including the committee Chair), and one of those three is LGBTQIA+. The firm anticipates that these percentages among its lawyers will continue to rise as a result of these concerted efforts.



Smith Anderson's internal initiatives to promote a work environment that is inviting, fair and respectful, include:

- Launching an internal Diversity Mentor Program pairing partners with diverse associates to create a supportive and inclusive work environment with measurable activities monitored on a quarterly basis.
- Featuring at its most recent firm retreat a presentation by Cranford

Advisory Services LLC about diversity and inclusion in law firms, including a focus on how to identify and address micro-aggressions and unconscious bias.

"Increasing diversity and inclusion is not a part-time job or extracurricular activity - it requires thinking about it every single day and always looking for ways to make it a key part of every initiative or important decision we make as a law firm," noted Kerry Shad, partner and member of Smith Anderson's Management Committee and co-chair of the firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.



Other firm initiatives that illustrate Smith Anderson's resolve to be an advocate for diversity and inclusion in the legal community and the broader community include:

- Hosting an internal program on diversity in the legal profession featuring a panel of diverse in-house lawyers from GlaxoSmithKline, RDU Airport Authority, Local Government Federal Credit Union and Trilliant.
- Hosting a networking reception attended by representatives of more than 45 companies for OnBoardNC, an organization dedicated to accelerating gender equality in the board room through networking opportunities that introduce board-ready female executives to companies seeking new directors.
- Celebrating the firm's 108th anniversary with a firm-wide fundraising campaign to provide philanthropic support to the following North Carolina non-profit organizations that seek to change racial injustice holistically through action, advocacy, and education: we are, StepUp Ministry and the North Carolina Justice Center.
- Prioritizing using Minority, Women and Veteran-Owned Businesses as subcontractors and vendors.
- Sponsoring numerous conferences such as NC Tech's Diversity + Inclusion Summit, NC Chamber's Women: A Force in Business and NC Chamber's Workplace Diversity & Inclusion conferences.
- Hosting multiple events annually to connect, support and promote women and diverse lawyers in North Carolina.

As a leading law firm with a significant public profile, Smith Anderson recognizes the pivotal role it plays as a voice of change and influence. In light of the events of last year highlighting the senseless killing of Black citizens, the firm issued Racial Injustice statements not just internally but also externally via their website. The firm also supports and encourages its partners and associates to take active roles within the WCBA, other local bars and the North Carolina Bar Association to promote and encourage diversity.

Join us in congratulating Smith Anderson for their exemplary role and trailblazing commitment to advancing the ideals of the WCBA's Committee for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. **WBF**





# HOPE ON THE HORIZON

## HOW WAKE COUNTY LAWYERS AND COURT OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO PRESS FORWARD AS WE NAVIGATE TOWARDS THE END OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

*In our Third Quarter 2020 Bar Flyer, we checked in with a few of our members and county officials on how their practice and lives had adapted during the beginning of the pandemic. Six months later, we are still living in a world of virtual meetings and social distance; however, with the hope that a nationwide vaccine roll out will bring an end to this unprecedented time. We checked in with some of our previous contributors and a few VIPs to see how things are going, and what their hopes are for 2021.*



BY PAUL NEWBY | CHIEF JUSTICE, NC SUPREME COURT

**IF THIS PANDEMIC HAS TAUGHT US ANYTHING**, it is the importance of innovation and flexibility within the judicial branch in order to ensure that all North Carolinians have timely access to justice. I am so proud of how our courts have quickly adapted to the evolving nature of this situation. "Justice delayed is justice denied," and this pandemic has shone a bright light on that phrase. The flexibility and resilience of all those in our legal community is a testament to their dedication to justice without delay. Certainly, the innovative use of technology has created new ways to provide access to the courts while honoring due process rights. The legal community should carefully consider which innovations should continue after this season.

As we move forward, our courts must meet our constitutional mandate that "[a]ll courts shall be open.... and [that] justice shall be administered without favor, denial, or delay." N.C. Const. art. I, § 18. We must also proceed with appropriate caution to ensure the well-being of our stakeholders and the public. While responding to the evolving COVID-19 situation continues to present a challenge for state and local officials, I am encouraged by the vaccine development and distribution.

To help us safely comply with our constitutional mandate, I have requested that Governor Cooper include courthouse personnel among the front-line essential workers designated to participate in Phase 1b of the COVID-19 vaccination program. My hope is that those who wish to receive the vaccination can do so quickly, and we can take a major step forward in ensuring our court facilities are safe places to conduct the business of justice.

Nonetheless, local officials must continue to be vigilant and exercise good judgment as they responsibly manage their local court systems and carefully balance the needs of court employees, legal professionals and the general public. To that end, all of us have a role and I ask that you join in that effort. **WBF**

**WE'VE SURVIVED AND SURVIVED VERY WELL.** Life looks and feels very different than it did early in the pandemic. There were clearly feelings of uneasiness, uncertainty and, quite honestly, lots of fear. However, time is a wonderful friend. Life remains different in the practice of Family Law, but we have made so much progress. Our days are now filled with zoom appointments to meet clients; zoom mediations, when the mediator puts one party in one holding area and another party in a second holding area; virtual depositions; and WebEx hearings.

We have successfully mastered bridging the physical distance that COVID-19 has created with our clients. Now that court has resumed many "in person" hearings are taking place, we now "double" mask up and head to court, able to represent our clients, as we did in the past. Again, it is different because, as many of you know, wearing a mask and speaking with a mask, are quite challenging. However, we are able to represent our clients and provide families with much needed resolution. Emotionally and financially many families continue to struggle. Therefore, practicing family law during COVID-19 has been critical to our families.

2020 was an amazing year. I learned that I am not as much of a dinosaur as I thought and that where there is a will, there really is a way! Here's to a new way of practicing law effectively. **WBF**



BY ROSE STOUT | SMITH DEBNAM



# HOPE ON THE HORIZON

**2020 WAS HARD.** It was hard on us personally. It was hard on the legal profession. And it was hard on the courts. But the legacy of 2020 is not the hardship we've all endured. Rather, the more sustaining legacy is what we have learned, what we have overcome, and what we have accomplished.

In the Wake County courthouses, over just one weekend in March, we shifted from operating about 25 bustling courtrooms to operating only six courtrooms, limited to only those tasks mandated by law or essential to the administration of justice during a pandemic. Then, three months later, we eased up to operating about 22 courtrooms, but with greatly reduced dockets. In November, we safely conducted a criminal jury trial – the first jury trial in over 35 weeks. But, in December, we retreated, and returned our operations to six courtrooms in response to heightening pandemic concerns. Along the way, we've worn masks, socially distanced and submitted to health screenings at every entrance. We've stood in our magnificent courtrooms that are now littered with yellow and red warning stickers, hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies. Some of our colleagues have tested positive for COVID-19. Some of our colleagues are anxious, lonely and afraid.

Yes, these were tough days in our courthouses. But we quickly learned that we were well served by the collaborative leadership model cultivated by people like Robert Farmer, Don Stephens, Robert Rader and Colon Willoughby. They, along with many others, instilled a strong culture where decisions in our courthouses are made as a team after listening, debating, and compromising. And, when inevitable mistakes are made, solutions are sought, not blame. The collective wisdom, leadership and can-do attitude displayed by the agency heads in our courthouses has been remarkable from leaders like District Attorney Lorin Freeman, Clerk Blair Williams, Chief District Court Judge Debra Sasser, Public Defender Deonte Thomas, Chief Magistrate Chris Graves, Sheriff Gerald Baker, Trial Court Administrator Kellie Myers and our Wake County champion, Kelli Braunbach.

We've learned that the way we've always done things may not be the best way – and 2020 may have inspired lasting innovation. We've moved great swaths of our operations to video conferencing. Since March we've conducted approximately 750 civil superior court motion hearings via WebEx. Our Superior Court judges have remotely issued nearly 4,000 search warrants and law enforcement investigatory orders. These are measures that will likely survive the pandemic because they simply work, are efficient and increase access to our courts. But, at the same time, we've also realized the irreplaceable value of human contact and personal interaction. There is no substitute for an in-person cross-

examination conducted by a skilled advocate. Sometimes a face-to-face meeting is the only way to hammer out an emotional settlement. The firm handshake, the pat on the back and the friendly hug are all indispensable hallmarks of collegiality that is essential to our profession.

We've learned about the power of dialogue. In the

wake of the tragic death of George Floyd, the WCBA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and the Bench Bar Committee hosted a forum titled "Where Do We Go From Here? A Collaborative Community Forum to Create Change." The remarkably candid dialogue opened eyes to subtle acts, often unintentional, that are barriers to inclusiveness and equity. And we've learned about the power of collective good will. When state, local and courthouse face mask mandates were imposed for entry into our court facilities, the WCBA lawyers in our community responded in an incredible show of generosity by donating nearly 30,000 masks so that the public and our staff could conduct the business of the courts as safely as possible.

It is tempting to look back on 2020 as a year of catastrophe – where America sickened, burned and bled, and where citizens divided themselves into irreconcilable camps heaping scorn upon their ideological foes. But I think the story of 2020 is better told by what we've seen from our friends, our families, our colleagues, our community and our profession. We will return some day, hopefully soon, to our bustling courtrooms, our WCBA gatherings, our restaurants, bars and football games. But I, for one, hope not to forget the satisfaction of a quiet conversation away from crowded places, the long walk in the woods with a family member and the joy of a Zoom call with a little nephew to watch him sing. And collectively, we should not forget the resilience, innovation and goodwill of our profession and colleagues in the Bar. Because that, in 2020, is who we really were. **WBF**



BY PAUL RIDGEWAY | SENIOR SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE



BY LORIN FREEMAN | WAKE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**WHEN COURTS ABRUPTLY** reduced operations in March by Order of the Chief Justice, none of us anticipated that come January we would still be struggling with how to manage court dockets during a world pandemic. From June until just a few weeks ago, we operated all the usual criminal courts with anything but usual practices. We have reduced dockets, worn masks, socially distanced and changed calendar call procedures. We've conducted one jury trial pursuant to a judicial district plan approved by the Chief Justice where jurors sat in the gallery, the witness testified from the jury box and the judge was located behind counsel tables turned to face the jury. In all earnestness, there aren't many of the "new ways of operating" that we wish to continue when this pandemic has passed.

As I wrote about several months ago, teamwork amongst the court leaders has been critical during this time. Even though we have transitioned to a new Chief District Court Judge and a new Public Defender during the past 10 months, the strong collaboration and communication has continued. Teamwork within our office has also grown as we have been forced to nimbly react to situations beyond our control.

Perhaps the most important thing to come out of this period is the prioritization of good health and the tendency to worry and care about each other in an adversarial fast-paced high-volume system that often fails to provide much space for any of that. If there is one thing I hope continues beyond COVID-19, it is the sense of unity that is built when we collectively endure hardship and come out the other end. And we will. **WBF**



## COVID PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

BarCARES is a confidential, short-term intervention program provided cost-free to members of participating judicial district bars, voluntary bar associations and law schools. To learn more about BarCARES visit <https://www.ncbar.org/members/barcares/>

**BarCARES program services have always been and continue to be available via telephone or telehealth delivery.**

HRC Behavioral Health & Psychiatry, P. A. is the practice that manages the delivery of BarCARES services.

HRC Behavioral Health & Psychiatry, P. A. has operated without pause during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Clinicians within HRC and clinicians across the state to whom BarCARES referrals may be made may provide services by telephone or telehealth [video + audio].

**To request a referral to a provider please contact the BarCARES coordinator at 919-929-1227 or 1-800-640-0735**

**For urgent concerns: if you need to speak to someone immediately, call 919-929-1227 or 1-800-640-0735. The HRC answering service will place after business hours calls with our on-call provider.**



# HOPE ON THE HORIZON

**THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC** created a unique challenge for our courts. When asked what I think will continue, professionally, once the COVID-19 pandemic becomes a distant memory, my immediate thoughts focused on court operation changes, such as WebEx hearings, virtual meetings and working remotely.

Upon further reflection, I realized that the COVID-19 pandemic has given me an immeasurable appreciation for the importance of a strong leadership team who share a common goal: Protecting the health and safety of the public and court personnel while upholding the constitutional mandate that courts remain open. As our Wake County court leadership team transitioned from focusing on urgent decision-making to strategic, recovery-focused planning, it became clear that communication, respect and courage are integral to successful crisis leadership at any stage. It is my hope that these qualities endure within our profession long beyond the current public health crisis.

Leaders must communicate clearly, providing honest and reliable information, even when under immense pressure to act promptly. During the last 44 weeks, our court leadership team has maintained around-the-clock contact with each other to ensure that we are promptly responding to the frequent challenges resulting from COVID-19. We have endeavored to protect the safety of the public and court personnel while ensuring that courts are open by making decisions regarding court operations that are informed by state and local health officials, even when faced with harsh criticism. The COVID Coordinator and members of the court leadership team ensure that prompt and current information is made available to the public, to personnel, and to the bar through regular posts to the [WAKE COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATES PAGE](#), email notifications, signage in court facilities and social media. Reliable, respectful and accessible information will remain essential to our profession and to our courts.

When the Wake County court leadership team makes decisions, we do not always agree from the outset regarding the best course of action; however, we listen to each other, give others' opinions sincere consideration and do not assign blame to other team members when mistakes are made. Showing respect for others fosters feelings of trust and a sense of security, reduces conflict and

improves communication. Respect is more than simply a lack of disrespect – it requires you to pay due regard to others and their opinions, even when you may not agree. As leaders, we must show respect to successfully engage in the conversations that are necessary to address the pandemic issues before us and to successfully navigate the “new normal” for our profession.



BY KELLIE Z. MYERS | TRIAL COURT ADMINISTRATOR

When situations are uncertain, our initial reaction may be to freeze out of fear of making the wrong decision; however, this inaction leads to unnecessary delays and mistrust, creating chaos during times of crisis. Leadership requires the courage to step forward during difficult times, to be innovative, and to be adaptive. The members of our court leadership team left their egos at the door as we made difficult decisions and implemented new ways to operate, with the knowledge that we would need to revisit our decisions over and over (and over) again.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present extraordinary challenges to our court system, I remain grateful to our court leadership team and to the members of our bar for their communication, respect and courage. I look forward to navigating the “new normal” in 2021 with each of you. **WBF**



BY BILL YOUNG | HATCH, LITTLE AND BUNN

## REMAIN FLEXIBLE.

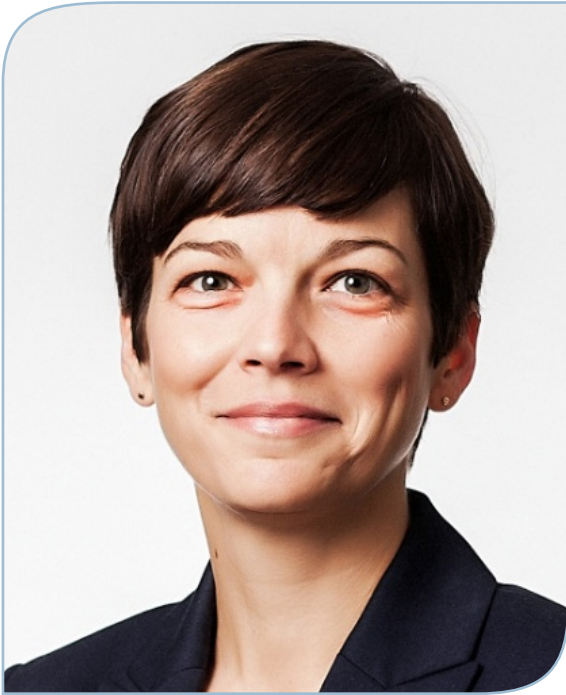
Remain patient. In my last submission, our criminal defense team was adapting to the introduction of the COVID-19 into our work environment. Generally, that environment includes our offices, the courthouse and the Wake County Detention Center. Initially, our defense team was able to separate ourselves into those three sectors in order to avoid cross-contamination.

result, my colleagues James Little, Aaron Goforth and I have found ourselves back in the office, back in the courtrooms and back in the Detention Center. Criminal defense attorneys are permitted very little authority in setting the court calendars. Our statutes bestow that power upon the prosecution.

When criminal courts reopened in June, the accumulation of cases presented a courthouse packed with defendants, officers, and attorneys. Our presence was essential. Thus we relied on the tools we had. We continued to offer clients Zoom meetings. We often utilized WebEx for 50B hearings. We maintained our office protocol of increased partitions, temperature screenings and lots of hand sanitizer.

The end of 2020 did bring a new court closure that was much needed with rising COVID-19 numbers. However, while numbers continue to rise, that closure is set to expire later in January. There are many questions as to how court will resume. As court protocol is released, and policies are implemented and amended, the thing that will be most important is our flexibility and patience. This is a time when we must work together with all components of our justice system to stay healthy while upholding the Constitution. We have an obligation to keep our courts open to the people. We will continue to do so with our flexibility and patience. **WBF**

# HOPE ON THE HORIZON



BY MEGHAN KNIGHT | LYNCH & EATMAN

**THE LAST NINE MONTHS** have not been easy. The days blur together. Everything seems complicated. Finding stretches of time to concentrate or work on estate plans is tough when work days are peppered with interruptions from kids who need help with virtual school. It is hard to look away from anxiety-inducing news about the pandemic and our nation's struggles. Our mortality is right in our faces.

I miss seeing family and friends, and being able to hug the ones I do see. I miss meeting with clients and colleagues in person, for as long as we want, without the necessity of voices muffled by face masks. The exhaustion from it all sneaks up on me.

But I tell myself that we likely are more than halfway through the worst of it. I remind myself to appreciate this time with my family in our little bubble. I go on walks with my husband. I tell myself to be patient. I do the

best that I can. I try to forgive myself for not doing everything perfectly.

I expect it will be a long, slow slog towards normalcy. I expect it will be easier to work from home when life necessitates it. I expect this experience has given my children invaluable self-management skills. I expect the pandemic has made it easier for clients, especially younger clients, to contemplate their own mortality. I expect that even when meeting in person becomes less risky, plenty of clients will still prefer the ease and reduced time commitment of a virtual meeting.

And I am hopeful. Hopeful that vaccinations are underway. Hopeful because my children are so resilient. Hopeful because the dots of yellow from the forsythia in my yard mean springtime is just around the corner. Hopeful that even though it will be a long, slow slog towards normalcy, we will get there. Hopeful because we have already made it this far. **WBF**

## Lessons Learned:

**Expect the unexpected.  
Know your banker.**



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# HOPE ON THE HORIZON



BY JOSUE JIMENEZ | CAMPBELL LAW SCHOOL

**ASIDE FROM TEACHING US** what meetings could be emails, this pandemic has also shown us how much more far reaching our impact can be with technology. From August to November law school admissions professionals are normally traveling nonstop all over the country. This past year on days when I wasn't in the office, however, my traveling consisted of walking from my bed, to the coffee machine and then to my table. This past virtual recruitment season allowed us to go to so many more events than we would normally be able to.

Although there are many benefits to this new technology dependent world, I think it emphasized to many of us how much we need in-person interaction. Once it is safe to travel again, I'm certain that we will primarily go back to the traditional form of recruitment, but like many other organizations, webinars and virtual meetings will also now become permanent aspects of law schools' recruitment efforts.

On a personal level, as much as being connected has become a huge part of our lives, the importance of disconnecting was also highlighted for me in 2020. I've become even more appreciative of any time I get to spend with family and friends and being 100% present in those moments is something I plan on continuing to do in 2021 and beyond. **WBF**

**ONCE THE INITIAL** stay home order was lifted, our firm quickly returned to the office. Though we can work from home, we prefer the collaborative nature of face-to-face interaction that doesn't quite translate via Zoom. While this is not feasible for many firms and other organizations, thankfully, there are only five of us in our office and we all have private offices with doors, so we are able to socially distance. Many things are different. When we are not in our offices, we are all "masked up." Conference room lunches and birthday cakes have been replaced with individual takeout in our offices and individual cupcakes.

Though we are physically in our office, much of the work is still conducted remotely. As COVID-19 began to wreak havoc on the traditional face-to-face practice of law, I did not like the idea of remote depositions and mediations. I declined to schedule any for several months, preferring to wait out COVID-19 and do things the old-fashioned way, in person so I could "size up" the other side. Once it became clear COVID-19 was not going away any time soon, I reluctantly began to conduct depositions and mediations via video conference. Though they are far from perfect, there are some advantages, including the increased ease of scheduling. Removing the obstacle of travel time for parties and counsel opens up the calendar quite a bit. However, I do miss the personal interaction with opposing counsel during breaks. Over the years, I've learned quite a bit about my cases during recesses at depositions. The down time is not quite the same on a Zoom call. I look forward to settling a case by the hallway water cooler this year.

While depositions via Zoom are not quite the same (in my opinion), I have greatly enjoyed the ease of attending committee meetings by video conference. There is a lot to be said for getting in and getting out. For many committee meetings, I'm convinced attendance is actually up. That said, I look forward to breaking bread with many of you at the Woman's Club in 2021. **WBF**



BY: WILL OWENS | OWENS & MILLER

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@wakecountybar

## DIRECT EXAMINATION: WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER DEONTE' THOMAS



### 1. When you were in elementary school, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I have been a big fan of professional wrestling throughout periods of my life so in elementary school I wanted to be a member of "The Legion of Doom." That dream lasted longer in my life than I care to admit.

### 2. What was the most important lesson your parents taught you?

The value of hard work, specifically that I was going to have to work twice as hard to get half the credit. Also the importance of doing the right thing even when no one is paying attention.

### 3. Who was your favorite teacher and why?

My 11th grade sociology teacher Mr. Hailey. He encouraged me to be proud of being smart and not to portray otherwise in an effort to fit in. He also told me to always lead from the front.

### 4. Did you love or hate law school?

Once my first semester grades eliminated me from any "Big Law" aspirations, I loved it. The best friends I have in my life, I met in law school. I had more fun as a law student on Franklin Street than I did in undergrad.

### 5. What was your most embarrassing courtroom experience?

Defense lawyers don't typically have as much experience admitting evidence as district attorneys do. I had the occasion where I thought I had a "Matlock Moment" that would come true once I admitted this evidence. I asked to admit said evidence. The State objected. The judge sustained objection quickly and without comment. I asked a few more questions to "lay foundation." That should do it! I moved to Admit.

Objection. Sustained.

**DIRECT EXAMINATION IS THE FIRST** opportunity for the jury to meet a witness. An effective lawyer will use the opportunity to personalize the witness, making the witness appear both likeable and credible. At the end of the day, the direct examination is a party's best chance to tell his or her story.

I went and sat down with co-counsel and asked for a moment. We put our heads together and the light bulb finally went off. I got up and asked the witness more questions.

Admit? Object. Sustained.

Fifteen minutes later and the evidence was not admitted and the State's table and the judge both had knowing and sly smiles.

I tucked my tail and moved on. I did win the trial and got a crash course on some gaps in my knowledge of proper trial procedure and evidence.

### 6. What was your best courtroom experience?

At the end of a very long, high-profile trial, my client told me that he was going to take the stand and was going to tell a fanciful concocted story that I had never heard before and did not confirm with the facts. In a panic, I asked for an hour recess so I could call the Bar and get some advice.

Based on the Bar's advice, I moved to withdraw as to not suborn perjury. My motion was denied and I was absolved by the judge from any ethical issues that may arise from my continued representation.

I pretty much just asked, "So tell the jury what happened." My client went on a long and rambling nonsensical story that the assistant district attorney easily and eagerly destroyed.

My client strutted down from the stand, sure that his own expert testimony would lead to his exoneration. The judge asked me if we had any more evidence. I was furious with the entire situation. Not quite thinking about my tone nor my setting I said;

"No, your Honor. I think we nailed it."

I saw that my anger was not taken as I intended as the court laughed. Making Judge Hight laugh is a proud accomplishment in and of itself.

My client did not succeed in exonerating himself and his case is used in many law school ethics courses.

### 7. Why did you become a lawyer?

I have always enjoyed public speaking and meeting people, so becoming a lawyer felt like a natural profession. However, I didn't know any lawyers personally until I got to law school and I had little

knowledge of how to even start towards this goal. Because of this, I consider it a duty to be a role model and provide opportunities for others.

### 8. What has been the most surprising or unexpected development in your career?

I think my career has gone the way I have always envisioned and I appreciate the opportunities I have been afforded along the way. I have wanted to be the chief ever since I interned for James Williams at the Orange County Public Defender. I am proud and surprised that I have achieved this lifelong goal at this stage in life.

### 9. What is your favorite book?

"Shook One: Anxiety Playing Tricks on Me" by Charlamagne and "10% Happier" by Dan Harris have helped me greatly recently. Both are revealing analyses of how we treat our own mental health, but especially how we ignore it until it's too late.

### 10. What is your most marked characteristic?

I pride myself on being an attentive and active listener, and I have a great memory. It absolutely helps me in my practice and helps me connect with people even if they are difficult. Having a constantly positive disposition helps as well.

### 11. What is your hidden talent?

I am a Back-to-Back Blockbuster Video Nintendo World Championship Qualifier and in undergrad was the captain of a nationally ranked Quiz Bowl team. Therefore, I am hard to beat at Ms. Pac-Man and Jeopardy.

### 12. Who are your real life heroes?

My mom, my wife, Bryan Stevenson and anyone else that overcame a struggle and succeeded. Especially if you were the first to do so.

### 13. When and where were you happiest?

On April 14, 2019, I got to deliver my daughter, Sydney, without a doctor because she was ready to come out as soon as we got to the delivery room. I was extremely proud of my rock star wife. She made it look easy.

Getting sworn in as Chief Public Defender on October 1, 2020 is a close second. **WBF**



## 2021: A NEW DAWN, A NEW DAY AND I'M FEELING GOOD

BY CAMILLE STELL | LAWYERS MUTUAL CONSULTING & SERVICES

### I OFTEN DESCRIBE MYSELF AS FLEXIBLE.

My husband laughs. Out loud, mind you, right in front of me!

Because in truth, I yearn to control every situation. I prefer to know the question before it is asked of me. And I'd rather meet with you when I want to and where I want to.

Here's what I know about myself mid-pandemic. I can be almost always flexible, but it does exhaust me.

### HOW IT STARTED

I remember the dates very clearly because I was hosting the third annual Managing Partners Summit on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. The week prior, the phone calls and emails were coming in fast and furious from speakers, sponsors and attendees, "what are your plans for next week?"

I talked to everyone for advice, the most risk adverse people in my circle, as well as those who saw things a little differently. I talked to my sister-in-law who works for a clinical research organization. Her company is international, and they would soon have dozens of clinical trials happening across the world. She sent me charts and graphs and articles daily.

And from March 9 – "the show must go on!" – to March 12 – "I'm shutting it down" – we began to see the world around us change. And flexibility became more important than ever.

### SEND EVERYONE HOME

By Friday the 13th (REALLY???), Lawyers Mutual decided to send our work force home, as many of you did. At that time, we thought we would work at home for six weeks and beat this pandemic. It was probably good for us that we didn't know then what we know now. That we would be working remotely for the remainder of the year, or that we would have rigorous pandemic protocols in our offices monitoring everything from whether we allowed clients inside to taking our temperatures daily.

### LIVING DURING A PANDEMIC

I have felt ALL the emotions during this pandemic. Anxious, depressed, tired, lethargic, happy to be home, sad to be isolated, guilty for having a job that allowed me to work remotely.

I was only in the second year of a new business venture so I worried whether I would have business, then worried when I got business whether I could manage it remotely. I'd have a great day with plenty of energy and good client exchanges on Zoom then the next day find myself feeling angry because the internet was down AGAIN and asking myself how I could possibly be expected to work under these circumstances?

It has been hard. And even as I write that, I am inclined to erase it. I imagine there are millions of people across the world who would read that sentence and wonder if I had fallen and hit my head. How hard is it to work from the comfort of a beautiful home office?

I get teary-eyed as I put these emotions on the page. And I think to myself, girl, no one wants to read this.

2020 was a year like no other I've experienced in my lifetime. And there are plenty of people such as the wonderful Laura Mahr, a lawyer and wellness and mindfulness expert, who tell me it is ok to feel all the feelings. And to acknowledge them. Because one thing we do GREAT in the legal profession is to smile and say, "I'm doing great, how about you?"

### IT'S A NEW DAWN

I open YouTube and search for Michael Buble' singing "Feeling Good." "It's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new life for me and I'm feeling good." The jazzy music lifts my spirit. His crooning puts a smile on my face. And I love those horns. It's a big song. Which is what I need, a BIG song.

I am hopeful about 2021. It is a new dawn and it is a new day. There's a vaccine. Winter will end and the days will get longer. Sometime in 2021, I'm going back to the office to work.

My New Year's wish for you is a healthy 2021. I hope you experience joy this year. I hope your law firm- or law school or business is prosperous in 2021. I hope our families and our communities will thrive this year.

And next quarter, I'll try to be my normal, flexible self, writing to you about the legal profession and how you can evolve and thrive. But until then, Michael and I are singing pretty loud, because horns can handle the volume. **WBF**



Camille Stell is the president of Lawyers Mutual Consulting & Services. Continue this conversation by contacting Camille at [camille@lawyersmutualinc.com](mailto:camille@lawyersmutualinc.com) or 800.662.8843.



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## WALKING BEYOND THE FOOTPRINT OF 2020

BY: LEANOR BAILEY HODGE | NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR

**AS YOU READ THIS ARTICLE**, 2020 is finally in the rear view. Wow! What a year. The most impactful event of the year was the spread across the globe of COVID-19. As it unfurled, what followed was a cascade of lock downs and the declaration that we were in a worldwide pandemic. In America, we scrambled to learn how to conduct our daily tasks remotely, which included crash courses on Zoom, Microsoft Teams and other virtual meeting platforms. We panicked over whether we would ever again be able to purchase toilet paper or cleaning supplies. On a more serious note, we tried to battle the virus. In the midst of that effort, we learned just how deadly COVID-19 could be; and in more than several hundred thousand cases, the virus won. We watched helplessly as our family, friends and neighbors attended funerals with only a handful of loved ones able to gather with us to mourn. The pandemic alone was enough to make 2020 an unparalleled year.

However, 2020 brought more than just a pandemic. There was also climatic devastation. The west coast of the country battled large wildfires that were unrivaled by their predecessors and the Louisiana coast was forced to rebuild – twice – after being pummeled by major hurricanes. In 2020, we also elected a new president of the United States. There is much that could be said about the campaign and the election, but probably very little that has not already been said about it. There is, however, one aspect of the process that should be mentioned here, which is, that like so many other aspects of 2020, the election too was noteworthy as it ended with the highest voter turnout this country has seen in over one hundred years.

Finally, 2020 brought the world face to face with the effects of systemic racism in the form of an eight minute, 45 second video showing the murder of George Floyd. There was now recorded evidence that showed that race resulted in different experiences for Americans in matters involving law enforcement. The rebroadcast of this video on a seemingly endless loop throughout the summer forced the topic of racism into the national and international narrative. In response, millions across the globe took to the streets in protest and to declare that Black Lives Matter. The combination of the major events of 2020 will certainly define this past year as unprecedented.

The common theme of 2020, as I see it, was broadcast through the events of the year in the same way a New York City Times Square sign, with all its flashy lights, announces the messages of advertisers. It was a “can’t miss” notice that lays the foundation for how we should proceed into 2021 and beyond. The takeaway from 2020 is – WE ARE ALL HUMAN. The perils of 2020 reminded us that, though some of us were more insulated from its afflictions than others, either because of economic advantage, societal status, race, geography, age, etc., none of us is immune because of our shared humanity.

Before 2020, it felt easier to go through the motions of life without giving much thought to the way we performed many of our daily tasks. We shopped, socialized and sanitized (or not) with little or no thought for anything or anyone else. This past year, the events of the moment required us to consider our interdependency. I want this recognition to last into 2021 and beyond. Lawyers are societal leaders in many ways. I’d like for us to be the forerunners of our community in using the main takeaway of 2020 to make improvements. Surely, there are big things that should, must and will happen to correct the course. However, I do not believe that it is just the major things that will make the difference. Rather, I suppose that by remembering our interconnectedness and using this remembrance to spur us on to more consideration for the others with whom we share this world, we can advance the cause.

Every year leaves an imprint that carries forward into the next year and beyond. The length of time it takes for the footprints left by each 12 month period to fade is dependent upon the depth of the impression the experiences of the era made. I believe the indentation made by 2020 is deep and that its vestiges will be lasting. It is my hope that as we move forward from 2020, we do so holding fast to the main import of its events. It is my desire that we never forget that our common humanity is reason enough to continue to strive toward making our profession and society better for all.

I yearn for a legal culture where, though we may only ask trial witnesses those questions to which we already know the answers, we treat all others differently. I look forward to the time when lawyers stand out as true listeners, a group of people who vulnerably and sincerely ask our colleagues, clients, and others questions and then pay attention to the response – a response that we may not have foreseen and which will likely give us greater insight into the person in front of us. I am desirous of a day where we as a profession lead the way to true listening, awareness, and compassion. I anticipate a future in which we stand collectively as fellow humans, grateful for the opportunity to have a glimpse into the experience and perspective of other human beings that may allow us to truly see and consider other people, and to be kind as we move beyond the remarkable year that was 2020. **WBF**

### Law Offices of F. Bryan Brice, Jr. Hires New Attorneys



Andrea Bonvecchio

Having passed the July 2020 North Carolina Bar Exam, **Andrea Bonvecchio** is excited to be joining the Law Offices of F. Bryan Brice, Jr. as an Associate Attorney. Andrea is a South Florida native and a graduate of the University of Florida (2015) and University of Florida Levin College of Law (2020). While in law school, Andrea pursued a concentration through UF Law’s Environmental, Land Use, and Real Estate Law Certificate Program, was an Environmental Moot Court Team competitor and coach, and a Student Associate for the Conservation Clinic. Andrea was also on the executive board of the 26th Annual Public Interest Environmental Conference, which won the 2020 ABA Law Student Environment, Energy, and Resources Program of the Year Award. Prior to joining the firm, Andrea worked as a conservation and land use intern for Conservation Florida and a law clerk for Earthjustice. In her free time, Andrea enjoys playing music and joining her partner and their dog, Arrow, on adventures in nature.



Anne Harvey

**Anne Harvey** is excited to be joining the Law Offices of F. Bryan Brice, Jr. after relocating to North Carolina from Florida earlier this year. She is also glad to have the opportunity to be active in the North Carolina Bar Association, where she is a new member of the Environmental, Energy, and Natural Resources Law Section Council. Anne is a graduate of Georgetown Law (JD, 2010), Florida State University (MS, 2012), and the University of South Carolina (BA/BS 2007). Prior to joining the Law Offices of Bryan Brice, she worked as Staff Attorney and Acting Conservation Director for the Save the Manatee Club and as an Associate Attorney with Earthjustice in Tallahassee, Florida, and designed and taught a curriculum in environmental policy as teaching fellow at Florida State University. She is admitted to the state bars of North Carolina and Florida. In her free time, Anne enjoys learning to cook, and exploring and getting to know North Carolina.



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

EVERY NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW HOPES, AMBITIONS AND GOALS ON PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS. WE CAUGHT UP WITH A FEW OF OUR MEMBERS TO SEE WHAT 2021 MAY HAVE IN STORE FOR THEM.



JONNELL CARPENTER

**THIS YEAR,** I am focusing on my personal wellness. My New Year's resolutions include practicing mindfulness of myself and those around me, meditating at least once a week and reading a book once a month.

**JANUARY BEGINS** a new job for me doing the development work at the Raleigh-based nonprofit myFutureNC. I'm leaning into looking ahead, as opposed to being bogged down by 2020.

"Your past is important, but not nearly as important as how you see your future." Zig Ziglar



DAVID BOHM



SARAH PRIVETTE

### PERSONAL:

1. Travel to somewhere I haven't been (when and if we are allowed to be free range again). I love traveling and one of the hardest parts about 2020 was having to stay put.
2. Not forgetting some of the really important lessons from 2020 regardless of what happens in 2021. I know this resolution sounds really vague but I think we all learned a lot not only about ourselves in 2020 but the way we look at some of the bigger issues in this country. My resolution is to ensure that is not lost when things slowly start to change again with regard to the pandemic.
3. Participate in some fun races. I love to run races but with the pandemic everything was virtual last year but I was still able to find some fun races to do virtually. The goal is to find some fun road races to run this year (whether virtual or in person) and trick some friends into doing them with me.

### PROFESSIONAL:

1. Read more case law - I don't think I did enough of this in 2020 and it is such an important part of what we do as attorneys.
2. Take a deep dive back into some of the basics that I sometimes think I know well to make sure I know them the way I think I do. For me that is the rules of evidence.



**OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS**, in lieu of a New Year's resolution, I choose a word of the year. My word last year was FOCUS (get it? 20/20 vision?), and I chose it with the idea that I would work on prioritizing how I spent my time – with family, work, extracurricular commitments, and “me time” (ha – what is that?!). Then, the world changed and without realizing it, my word(s) of the year changed to “look for silver linings amid a pandemic.” So my 2021 word of the year is RE-FOCUS. My plan is to use this word to remind me to take care of the precious resource of time, identify my true priorities, and intentionally spend my time on those priorities. I know it won't do it perfectly, but I will certainly try.



JENNIFER VENABLE



DAVID BOAZ

**MY NEW YEAR'S** resolution is to give at least one review a month for online purchases. I always read and rely on reviews but have never contributed, even once! After 2020, I decided it is time for me to pitch in.

**EVEN THOUGH** 2020 was a very challenging year for most of us, I was lucky to have some wonderful things happen, both personally and professionally. For 2021, I have resolved to keep my gratitude higher than my expectations.”



JUDGE MARK STEVENS



CARRIE MCMILLAN

**MY RESOLUTION** is to visit every Wake County park in 2021. There are 10. I actually set this goal during quarantine, but I didn't get very far in my goal. It is hard to beat an afternoon walk at Historic Yates Mill County Park (especially when combined with a trip to nearby Howling Cow Creamery) or a visit to see the goats at Oak View County Park. I'm starting over in 2021!

**2020 REMINDED** us how nothing is guaranteed and how fragile our lives are. For 2021 I hope to make an even stronger effort to help improve our profession. I also plan on reading for fun again, something I haven't done since I started law school.



JOSUE JIMENEZ

# 2020 IN REVIEW

**629** VIEWS OF BAR AWARDS:  
THE SHOW MUST GO ON!



**202** NEW WCBA MEMBERS



**45+** HOURS OF ONLINE CLE



**250** POPSICLES  
DISTRIBUTED AT THE  
FAMILY PICNIC TO-GO



**175** BOTTLES OF  
WINE RESPONSIBLY ENJOYED  
AT HOME DURING THE  
HOLIDAY PARTY TO-GO



**COUNTLESS** HOURS ON ZOOM



**115** CUPS OF COFFEE DRUNK  
AT 11 DIFFERENT LOCAL COFFEE  
SHOPS DURING SUMMER  
COFFEE PICK UPS



**22** DIFFERENT LOCAL RESTAURANTS  
SUPPORTED WITH VIRTUAL LUNCHEONS



**2020 in Review**



# 2020 IN REVIEW

## 50 YEAR LAWYERS

IN 2020, WE RECOGNIZED 10 WAKE COUNTY LAWYERS CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEING LICENSED. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!



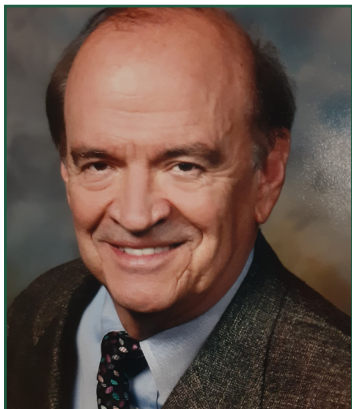
Stafford G. Bullock  
"Judge Bullock"



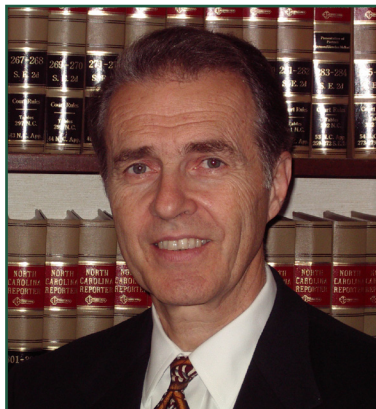
Benjamin F. Clifton  
"Ben"



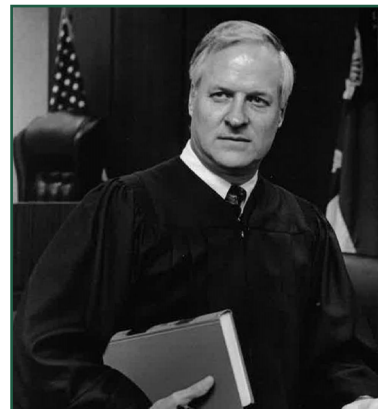
Franklin E. Freeman  
"Franklin"



Robert E. Howard  
"Robert"



William P. Pinna  
"Bill"



Donald Wayne Stephens  
"Judge Stephens"



Robert Warren Sumner  
"Bob"

### NOT PICTURED:

Thomas W. Earnhardt  
"Thomas"

H. Jones Norris  
"Jones"

Robert C. Stephens  
"Bob"

## 2020 BAR AWARDS: THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Despite the pandemic, our annual Bar Awards raised more than \$84,000 for our friends at Legal Aid of NC! Special thanks to everyone who gave of their time, heart and financial gifts.

### HOSTS

Yvonne Armendariz  
Day Matthews

### ZOOM THESPIANS

Carmen Bannon (Jurors #4, #762, #12463)  
Seth Blum (Jurors #1, #760, #12460)  
Sean Cole (Jurors #5, #761, #12464)  
Benji Jones (Jurors #2, #763, #12462)  
Ned Mangum (as himself)

#### *Featuring*

Angel Farag Craddock (Juror #3)  
Evin Grant (Juror #764)  
Fred Morelock (as himself)

### THE SOCIALLY DISTANCED BAND

Sean Timmons, Music Director  
Tim Carraway, Guitar  
John Cathcart, Drums  
Neubia Harris, Vocals (Thriller)  
Sam Fleder, Vocals (Fauci)  
Jay Trehy, Vocals (Ukraine)  
Julia Dixon, Background Vocals (Fauci)

### SPECIAL GUESTS (in order of appearance)

David "Don't Hassel The Hoff" Hasselhoff  
Definitely Dr. Fauci, not Seth Blum pretending to be Dr. Fauci  
Dr. Mandy Cohen, NCDHHS  
David Sherlin, WCBA Immediate Past-President  
Retired Chief District Court Judge Robert Rader  
John Mabe  
Chief Justice Cheri Beasley  
Sarah Privette  
Victor Boone  
Gary Busey

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Sean Timmons, Musical Director  
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Sean Timmons, Music Director  
Carmen Bannon  
Seth Blum  
Benji Jones  
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## 2020 BAR AWARDS: THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Despite the pandemic, our annual Bar Awards raised more than \$84,000 for our friends at Legal Aid of NC! Special thanks to everyone who gave of their time, heart and financial gifts.

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Vitale Law Firm  
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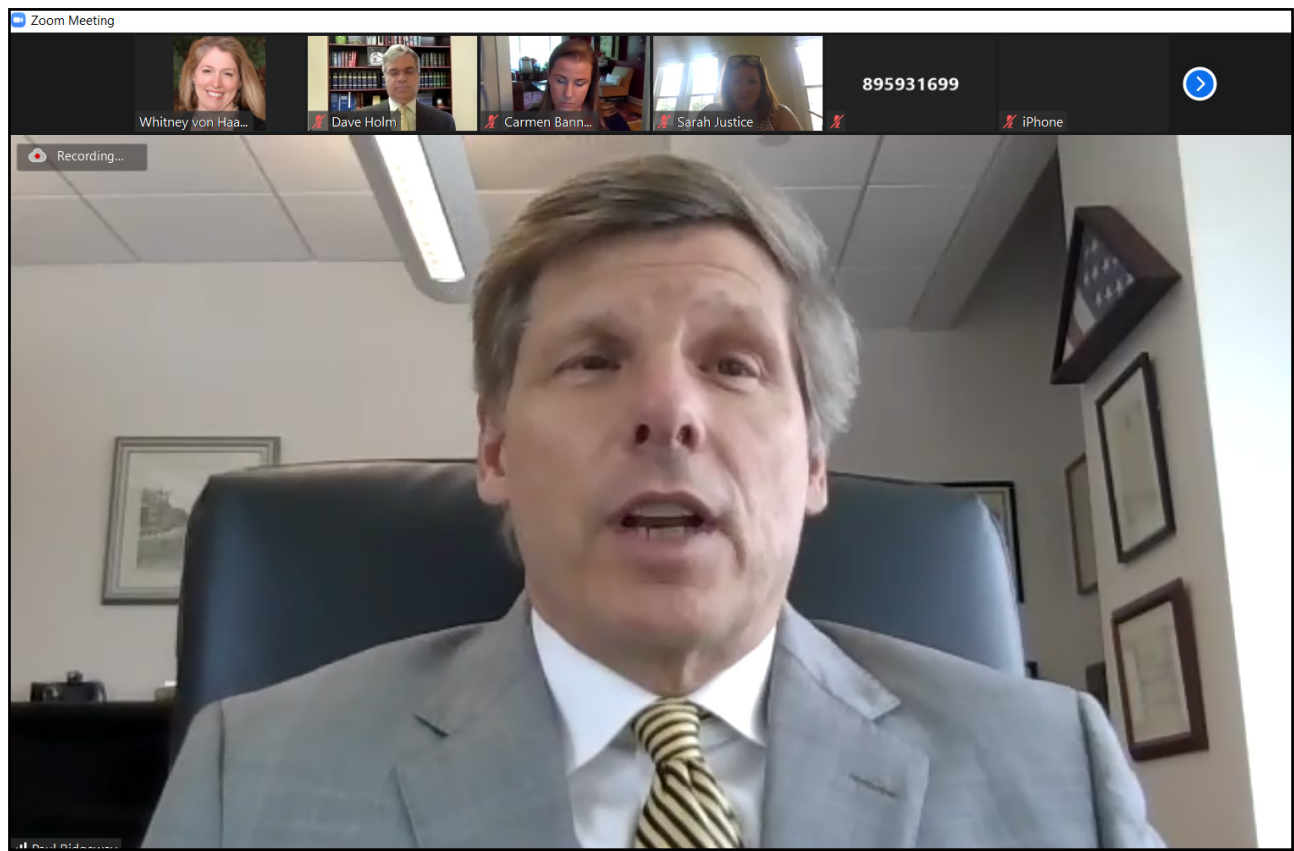
Ann-Margaret Alexander  
Russell Babb  
Carmen Bannon  
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David Boaz  
Ashley Brathwaite  
Clark Brewer  
Walter Brock  
Ashley Campbell  
Stephanie D'Atri  
Anna Davis  
Rebecca Edwards  
Biz Harrison  
Nicolette Fulton  
Paul Griffin  
Leonor Hodge  
Jennifer Jones  
John and Walker Mabe  
Brian Oten  
Karen Britt Peeler  
Diane Prakke  
Theresa Rosenberg  
John Silverstein  
Bettie Sousa  
Kristi Thompson  
Jennifer Venable  
Jessica Vickers  
Boz Zellinger

# HOW 2020 ZOOMED BY





# HOW 2020 ZOOMED BY





# HOW 2020 ZOOMED BY





## YLD UPDATE

BY: KENDRA STARK | 2021 YLD PRESIDENT



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**, YLD members! My name is Kendra Stark, and I am thrilled to serve as your 2021 YLD President. The Young Lawyers Division is composed of all members of the Wake County Bar Association who are under 36 years of age or who have been in practice for five (5) or fewer years. Each year, our YLD Board organizes socials, volunteer opportunities, pro bono projects, CLE programs and a variety of other events specifically designed for our new attorney members. Our goal is to provide our members with the opportunity to engage with their fellow young lawyers and with our incredible community here in Wake County.

In 2020, a year marked by distance and disconnection, we are proud that the YLD was able to come together and continue serving our members and our community. In 2021, we want to build on that momentum by connecting even more of our members with the opportunities YLD has to offer. Keep an eye out for a poll coming to your inbox later this month, where you can provide feedback on the types of events and programming you would like to see from the YLD this year and in the future. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to me or any of our Board members with any comments, questions or suggestions you might have.

Not only do we want to get to know you better in 2021- we want you to get to know us! Each month, a different member of our YLD Board will write a post for our new YLD blog. Each post will give you a glimpse into the Board member's background, practice and unique role on the YLD Board. We will also continue to give YLD updates at the WCBA's monthly luncheons and through these monthly email blasts. And of course, be sure to follow [@wakecountybar](#) on Instagram and Wake County Bar Association on Facebook for the latest updates.

I'm so grateful for the opportunity to serve you all this year, and I can't wait to see what we accomplish together.

### 2021 YLD BOARD

Kendra Stark, President  
Jonathan Bogues, President-elect/Secretary  
Carly Baker, Treasurer  
Meredith Pace, Social Committee  
Skylar Gallagher, Social Committee  
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Amanda Hawkins, Public Service Committee  
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Will Dickey, Pro Bono Committee

Ashley Page, Pro Bono Committee  
Stacy Little, Summer Clerk Orientation  
Patrick Vanderjeugd, Summer Clerk Orientation  
Jonnell Carpenter, Speakers Series  
Reagan Warren, Speakers Series  
Josue Jiminez, DEI Special Committee  
Ashley Ratliff, DEI Special Committee  
Jacob Morse, At Large

### UPCOMING YLD EVENTS

**February 18 | Bottle Shop Pickup (Location TBD)**

**February 27 | Virtual Pro Bono Clinic with Triangle Family Services**

The WCBA YLD Pro Bono Committee will hold a remote Virtual Pro Bono Clinic with Triangle Family Services on Saturday, February 27 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clients and attorneys will be paired off in advance for 30-minute question-and-answer sessions, and we are looking to recruit one, or preferably, two lawyers in each of the following areas: (1) Criminal law; (2) Family law; (3) Benefits law; and (4) Immigration law. If you have any questions, please contact YLD Pro Bono Co-Chairs Will Dickey ([wdickey@lanierlawgroup.com](mailto:wdickey@lanierlawgroup.com)) and Ashley Page ([ampage2@unc.edu](mailto:ampage2@unc.edu)). Registration is open online.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Michael Anderson | The Anderson Law Firm  
 Nicholas Bogdash | Schneider Law Group  
 Andrea Bonvecchio | The Law Offices of F. Bryan Brice, Jr.  
 Courtney Bonvillain  
 Robert Botkin  
 Julie Bridenstine | NC Innocence Inquiry Commission  
 Meredith Cairo | New Direction Family Law  
 Jeffrey Canaday  
 Tyler Chriscoe | Young Moore & Henderson PA  
 Jacqueline Clare  
 Christy Coates  
 Tatiana Cody  
 London Davenport | Beer Law Center  
 Stephanie Davis | Davis Law Office PC  
 Breanne DeBaets  
 Christine Eatmon | Eatmon Law Firm, PC  
 Megan Ellis | Matheson & Associates PLLC18  
 Michael Fanous | Gibson Law, PLLC  
 Marie Farmer | Morningstar Law Group  
 Stephanie Fields  
 Simon Gildener | Synchrono Group Inc.  
 Charles Gray | Law Offices of Anna Smith Felts  
 Zoe Hansen Burnet | Warren Shackleford & Thomas, PLLC  
 McCae Henderson | Parker Bryan Family Law  
 Cassie Holt | Shanahan Law Group PLLC  
 Hao Hu | Teague Campbell Dennis & Gorham LLP  
 Madeline Hurley | Mueller Law Firm PA  
 Kathryn Hutchinson | Consilio  
 Terri Jones | Town of Garner  
 Robonetta Jones  
 Wesley Jones  
 Christine Kidd | McLawhorn & Russell PLLC  
 Katherine King  
 Nicole Knowlson | ProVantage Corporate Solutions, LLC  
 Rober Labonte | Hedrick Gardner Kincheloe & Garofalo LLP  
 Brittany Levine  
 William Lewis | MacDermid, Reynolds & Glissman, P.C.  
 Anthony Locklear  
 Megan Mallamas | Montgomery Family Law

Candace Marshall  
 Elaine Marshall | NC Secretary of State  
 Diane Mickelson  
 Nykeia Miller  
 Tyler Mitchell  
 Glenn Morrison | Unicore USA Inc.  
 Ana Nunez | Fay Grafton Nunez  
 Ashle Page  
 Jessica Paribello  
 Sarah Pilon  
 Rachel Posey  
 Jennifer Reimer  
 Giles Rhodenhiser  
 Joshua Richardson  
 William Robertson | Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard LLP  
 Tess Rogers | McGuireWoods LLP  
 Shameka Rolla | Smith Anderson Blount Dorsett Mitchell & Jernigan LLP  
 Daniel Root  
 Courtney Salzer | IHS Markit  
 Cecilia Santostefano | Marcari Russotto Spencer and Balaban PC  
 Elizabeth Savage | Legal Aid of NC  
 Bryan Sherrick | Local Government Federal Credit Union  
 Mary Stillwell | Wallis Law Firm, P.A.  
 Leslie Stuntebeck | Triangle Smart Divorce  
 Destiney Thompson | Stubbs & Perdue PA  
 Peter Tomasek | O'Malley Tunstall PLLC  
 Lauren Toole  
 Jonathan Trapp | Trapp Law  
 Paige Vankooten | Jordan Price Wall Gray Jones & Carlton PLLC  
 Lindsey Wakely  
 William Walker | Brooks Pierce McLendon Humphrey & Leonard LLP  
 Reagan Warren  
 Michaela Weber | The Law Offices of Wiley Nickel, PLLC  
 Steven Wilson | Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein LLP  
 Kelsey Wolff  
 Alyssa Wright  
 Sarah Zambon | NC Department of Justice